

January 19, 1968

BY LIAISON

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. J. A. Sizoo
1 -
1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
1 - Mr. Parkis

Mrs. Mildred Stegall
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

Attached is a summary of information contained in the files of this Bureau concerning Eartha Kitt, the Negro singer and entertainer, which may be of interest to the President.

A copy of the enclosed has been furnished to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

Delivered to Mildred Stegall
on 1-19-68
11:05

REC-35

MCT-7

62-112009-1

JAN 22 1968

Enclosure

CAP:bjr
(9)

NOTE:

of the enclosure

Xerox copies/furnished to the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, and Assistant Attorney General of the Internal Security Division. A copy of the enclosure has also been furnished to Secret Service separately. See memorandum J. A. Sizoo to W. C. Sullivan, same date, captioned "Eartha Kitt," prepared by TDR:bjr.

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ENCLOSURE

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

51 JAN 20 1968

February 12, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

Reference is made to your name check request regarding Mr. Steinberg, reported to be the agent for Eartha Kitt.

The central files of the FBI contain no information regarding any person by the name of Steinberg connected with Miss Kitt. Inquiries by our Los Angeles Office determined that her publicist is Mr. Jay Bernstein, 9190 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, California, whose telephone number is CR4-7656. According to the information developed, this individual handles all publicity for Eartha Kitt.

The central files of the FBI and the files of our Los Angeles Office contain no identifiable derogatory information regarding Mr. Bernstein.

The fingerprint files of the Identification Division of the FBI contain no arrest data identifiable with Mr. Jay Bernstein based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

A copy of this communication has not been sent to the Attorney General.

REC 11

Sincerely yours,

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Gale (sent direct)

DFC:nvh (7)

FEB 13 1968

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MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

BARBARA KITT

whose members number in the hundreds. The group obtained funds in 1966 from the United Planning Organization and administrative help from the Southeast Neighborhood House. The "Washington Post and Times Herald" on May 3, 1966, said that the Rebels were so dedicated to democratic discussions that a meeting of four Rebels seemed to border on anarchy. Darlene Simmons, a full-time staff member of the Rebels, was described as "a high school dropout who spent her time running the streets with a gang of children, the kind of kids who start riots."

On August 15, 1966, Detective [redacted], [redacted] Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., advised the "Rebels With a Cause" is a branch of the Southeast Neighborhood House. [redacted] said there is no information that a disturbance that took place in Washington, D. C., on August 15, 1966, was organized by the Rebels; however, [redacted] was among those arrested.

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In October, 1966, information was received from a reliable source that [redacted] was suing her husband, [redacted] for divorce as a result of [redacted] catching her husband in bed with Barbara Kitt.

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Stokely Carmichael of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee put Kitt on American Airlines Flight 77 to San Francisco, California, from Dulles Airport at 9 a.m. today.

The fingerprint files of the Identification Division of the FBI contain no arrest data identifiable with Barbara Kitt.

NOTE:

Copy sent to Secret Service by Liaison 1/19/68.erox copies have been sent to the White House, the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, and Assistant Attorney General of the Internal Security Division.

Luncheon Guests At the White House

GUESTS at yesterday's White House luncheon for women doers to discuss crime in the Nation's streets were:

Mrs. Johnson
Gen. Veva Blatt
Assistant Director, OEO for Older Persons Programs and member President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice

Mrs. Curtis Bok
Member, National Emergency Committee of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Philadelphia, Pa.

Alice K. Burridge
Justice of the Peace Court, Casper, Wyo.

Jane Cheever
Business woman interested in civic endeavors, San Antonio, Tex.

Thelma C. Chumbris
Teacher, aide at Mt. Joy Head Start Center, Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Ramsey Clark
Wife of the Attorney General

Mrs. Robert Clayton
National President, YWCA, New York, N.Y.

Mrs. Charles Coe
VISTA worker in Head Start, Atlanta, Ga.

Rosemary Cook
Worked in the "Basement Program", Louisville, Ky.

Grace D. Cox
President, National Association of Women Lawyers, New York, N.Y.

Mrs. C. Wyatt Dickerson
NBC news commentator

Mrs. Barnes H. Ellis
Wife of White House Fellow assigned to Justice Department

Norma Foreman
Student at University of Texas, Austin

Mrs. Henry Francis, Jr.
Beautification Office, White House

Hazel Gallivan
VISTA worker at Henry Street Settlement, New York, N.Y.

Kay Halle
Department store heiress and writer, Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Bryant G. Harris
Director of Human Relations, D.C. Government

Mrs. John W. Hechinger
Wife of the Chairman, D.C. Council

Mrs. Richard Hughes
Wife of the Governor of New Jersey

Roberta Hughes
Secretary-director, Detroit (Mich.) Commission on Children and Youth

Mrs. Robert E. Kintner
Chairman, speakers' bureau, Democratic National Committee

Eartha Kitt
Singer, testified before House Subcommittee on Education on Juvenile Problems, Beverly Hills, Calif.

Mrs. Warren P. Knowles
Wife of the Governor of Wisconsin

Patricia K. Krause
Director of Public Information, USO, Saigon, Vietnam

Jeanne R. Lowe
Author on urban problems, New York, N.Y.

Katie S. Louchheim
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs

Myriam Luz
Associate Editor, "Buenos Aires" (Latin American edition of Good Housekeeping)

Mabel R. McClanahan
President, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Appleton, Wis.

Mrs. John L. McClellan
Wife of Senator from Arkansas

Margaret Moore
Chairman, Women's Anti-Crime Crusade, Indianapolis, Ind.

Mrs. Karl Mundt
Wife of Senator from South Dakota

Mrs. Patrick V. Murphy
Wife of D.C. Public Safety Director

Bess Myerson
TV commentator, New York, N.Y.

Katherine G. Peden
Member, National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, Hopkinsville, Ky.

Charlotte P. Reese
Member, Board of Parole, Alexandria, Va.

Mamie Reese
President, National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., D.C.

Mrs. James M. Roche
Wife of Chairman, General Motors, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Mrs. Hendrik M. Rozendahl
Trustee for National Council on Crime and Juvenile Delinquency, Schenectady, N.Y.

Mrs. John H. Secondart
ABC producer, New York, N.Y.

Mrs. Leslie N. Shaw
Wife of the Postmaster of Los Angeles, Calif. (Watts section)

Isabelle Shelton, reporter
Washington Star

Caroline K. Simon
Judge of the New York Court of Claims, N.Y.C., Chairman, National Emergency Committee of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency

Mrs. Robert J. Stuart
President, League of Women Voters of the U.S. and member, President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, Spokane, Wash.

Alexandra Tiranoff
First grade teacher, Syphax, Elementary School, Washington, D.C. (Teachers Corps)

Mrs. Cyrus R. Vance
Wife of the Deputy Secretary of Defense

Beatrice Warwood
President, AFL-CIO National Auxiliaries, Akron, Ohio

Dr. Bennetta B. Washington
Head of Women's Job Corps and wife of D.C. Mayor

Theo Wilson, reporter
New York Daily News, New York, N.Y.

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The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date JAN 19 1968

TOP CLIPPING

DATED 1-19-68

FROM Wash Post

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Photos by Wally McNamee—The Washington Post

Speakers for the first Women's Doer's luncheon Thursday met with Mrs. Lyndon Johnson in the White House Green Room in a moment of calm before the storm. From left are Mrs. Charles Coe, Mrs. Johnson, Miss Katherine Peden, and Mrs. Margaret Moore. During the meeting Mrs. Moore showed the First Lady an analysis of crimes in Indian spots.

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UPI-153

(LADY BIRD - KITT)

WASHINGTON--NEGRO SINGER EARTHA KITT SHOUTED ANGRILY AT MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON TODAY AT A WHITE HOUSE LUNCHEON THAT THE NATION'S YOUTH ARE REBELLING BECAUSE THEY ARE "SNATCHED OFF TO BE SHOT IN VIETNAM."

MISS KITT'S OUTBURST VISIBLY SHOCKED MRS. JOHNSON AND 50 OTHER GUESTS INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO DISCUSS THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS TO REDUCE CRIME IN THE STREETS.

THE FIRST LADY SAT IN PALE, STUNNED SILENCE AS MISS KITT DECLARED THAT AMERICAN YOUTH WERE "ANGRY BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS ARE ANGRY... BECAUSE THERE IS A WAR GOING ON THAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND... THAT THEY DON'T KNOW WHY."

WHEN THE SINGER WAS FINISHED, MRS. JOHNSON HERSELF ROSE FROM HER SEAT, HER VOICE SHAKING AND TEARS WELLING IN HER EYES.

LOOKING DIRECTLY AT MISS KITT, WHO LEANED AGAINST A PODIUM IN THE YELLOW-WALLED FAMILY DINING ROOM, THE FIRST LADY SAID:

"BECAUSE THERE IS A WAR ON--AND I PRAY THAT THERE WILL BE A JUST AND HONEST PEACE--THAT STILL DOESN'T GIVE US A FREE TICKET NOT TO TRY TO WORK FOR BETTER THINGS SUCH AS AGAINST CRIME IN THE STREETS, BETTER EDUCATION AND BETTER HEALTH FOR OUR PEOPLE."

WITH HANDS CLASPED NERVOUSLY, MRS. JOHNSON ADDED THAT "VIOLENCE WILL NOT SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS."

THE PRESIDENT MADE A SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT THE LUNCHEON TO JOIN HIS WIFE'S APPEAL FOR FEMALE LEADERSHIP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, BUT HE HAD GONE WHEN MISS KITT ROSE IN A WHITE SWEATER DRESS TO CHALLENGE MRS. JOHNSON.

WHILE HE WAS IN THE ROOM, HOWEVER, THE "ROADWAY STAR STOOD UP AND ASKED HIM, "WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT DELINQUENT PARENTS...PARENTS WHO CAN'T SPEND TIME WITH THEIR CHILDREN?"

THE PRESIDENT, TAKEN ABACK BY THE UNEXPECTED QUESTION, SAID DAY CARE CENTERS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AND ADDED, "I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF YOU WOULD ASK THE WOMEN AND THEN TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK."

THEN JOHNSON BEAT A HASTY RETREAT.

AFTER HE LEFT, A PANEL DISCUSSION RESUMED ON "WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO TO INSURE SAFE STREETS."

THE SPEAKERS WERE MISS KATHERINE BIRN OF HOPKINSVILLE, KY., A MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CIVIL DISORDERS; MRS. CHARLES COLE, 55, A VISTA HOMER AT ATLANTA, GA., AND MRS. MARGARET MOORE, WHO LED A FEMALE ANTICRIME CRUSADE IN INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

MISS KITT, SPOONFEEDING THROUGHOUT THE "NOT RECORDED" DURING A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD AFTERWARD AND APOLOGIZED FOR SPEAKING UP IF SHE OFFENDED THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE.

BUT, SHE SAID, TURNING TO THE OTHER WELL-DRESSED GUESTS, "I HAVE TO SAY WHAT'S IN MY HEART."

59 JAN 29 1968

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
 FOR MR. TOLSON

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ADD 1 LADY BIRD-KITT, WASHINGTON (79 -153)

SHE SAID SHE HAD NOT WALKED THE STREETS OF WASHINGTON AS CONCERNED AS THE OTHER GUESTS HAD, BUT "I HAVE LIVED IN THE GUTTERS."
 "I'M SORRY," MRS. JOHNSON REPLIED. "I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE THINGS THAT YOU DO. I HAVE NOT LIVED WITH THE BACKGROUND THAT YOU HAVE. I CANNOT SPEAK AS PASSIONATELY OR AS WELL AS YOU. BUT I THINK WE HAVE MADE ADVANCES IN THESE THINGS AND WE WILL GO FURTHER."

MISS KITT SAID SHE FELT THE SPEAKERS WERE "MISSING ONE OF SOMETHINGS" SHE HAD LEARNED WORKING IN THE RACIALLY TENSE LYNCH WATTS SECTION OF LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

"THE MAIN REASON FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENCY TODAY IS BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS ARE ANGRY AND THEIR PARENTS ARE ANGRY BECAUSE THEY ARE SO HIGHLY TAXED AND BECAUSE THERE IS A WAR GOING ON THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND," THE SINGER SAID.

"WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THE TRUTH REALLY IS," SHE SAID, POINTING HER FINGERS AT THE MEN WHO SAT TRANSFIRMED.

"THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA ARE NOT REBELLING FOR NO REASON. THEY ARE NOT REBELLING FOR NO REASON AT ALL. WE DON'T HAVE WHAT WE HAVE ON SUNSET BOULEVARD FOR NO REASON. THEY ARE REBELLING AGAINST SOMETHING. IT ALL SEEMS TO COME FROM SOMETHING. THIS IS VERY BASIC. WE PAY TAXES AND WE GET NO REASON FOR IT. THIS IS VERY BASIC."

MISS KITT DESCRIBED HERSELF AS A "WINE-LOVER" WHO IS CLOSE TO PEOPLE WHO GET A "WINE-LOVER CHECK."

"THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS HURTING THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY NEGROES. THEY FEEL THEY ARE GOING TO RACE CONES -- AND I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE. AND YOU HAVE CHILDREN OF YOUR OWN, MRS. JOHNSON -- WE CAN'T CHILDREN AND SEND THEM TO JAIL."

SHE SAID MRS. JOHNSON'S SON IS NO REASON TO BE A "GOOD GUY." HE WOULD RATHER GO TO JAIL AS A "BAD BOY" AND AVOID THE DRAFT, SHE SAID.

"THEY FEEL THAT IF THEY HAVE ANY LIFE, IT'S BEST TO LIVE BECAUSE THEY MAY NOT BE HERE TOMORROW."

THE SINGER TOLD MRS. JOHNSON THAT NEGROES FEEL ALIENATED BECAUSE "THEY CAN'T GET TO YOU AND THEY CAN'T GET TO THE PRESIDENT AND SO THEY FEEL IN THE GUTTERS."

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FOR MR. TOLSON
 WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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UPI-153

(KITT)

HOLLYWOOD--NEGRO SINGER EARTHA KITT, WHOSE TIRADE AGAINST THE WAR IN VIETNAM SHOOK THE WHITE HOUSE, RETURNED HOME TODAY AND SAID SHE BELIEVES SHE SPOKE "FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD."

THE SAUCER-EYED SINGER WITH THE SHARP TONGUE TOLD NEWSMEN AT LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THAT SHE HAD NO REGRETS ABOUT SPEAKING PLAINLY TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND LADY BIRD JOHNSON YESTERDAY AT A WHITE HOUSE LUNCHEON.

"I SAID WHAT IS IN MY HEART," SHE SAID, "AND I THINK I AM SPEAKING FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD."

"I THINK WHAT I HAD TO SAY IS PRIMARILY ON THE MINDS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IT WAS TIME THAT WE BEGAN TO EXAMINE OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE FIRST FAMILY DIRECTLY. AFTER ALL, THE JOHNSONS ARE OUR FAMILY AND AS THE HEAD OF THE NATION, WHO BETTER TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH?"

ASKED WHAT HER SOLUTION TO THE NATION'S CRIME PROBLEM WOULD BE, THE SINGER SAID:

"MRS. JOHNSON WANTS TO PLANT FLOWERS AND TREES ALONG THE BOULEVARDS. THEY TRIED THAT IN LONDON AND LOOK AT THE CONDITION ENGLAND'S IN NOW."

"BEAUTIFICATION OF SLUM AND GHETTO AREAS IS ONLY A PACIFIER. WHAT WE NEED ARE PARKS FOR THE POOR. PEOPLE ARE GETTING FLOWERS AND TREES INSTEAD OF FOOD AND SHOES FOR THEIR CHILDREN."

MISS KITT EXPLAINED SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GIVEAWAY PROGRAMS AND WELFARE, BUT DOES BELIEVE IN OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS AND EDUCATION IN THE CITIES.

ASKED HOW SHE WOULD SOLVE THE VIETNAM WAR DILEMMA, THE SINGER REPLIED:

"WHY NOT JUST PULL OUT OF VIETNAM AND TAKE A CHANCE OF 'LOSING FACE' AS OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DONE, FOR INSTANCE ENGLAND AND FRANCE? IT SEEMS TO ME WE ARE USING VIETNAM AS A DIRECT LINE TO RED CHINA. IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY DON'T WE FORGET VIETNAM AND GO DIRECTLY INTO CHINA?"

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Eartha Kitt Confronts the Johnsons

Startled First Lady Responds to Singer's Attack on War

By Marie Smith

Washington Post Staff Writer

In an impassioned confrontation with Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House yesterday, singer Eartha Kitt said American youth are rebelling because of the war in Vietnam.

"You send the best of this country off to be shot and maimed," the 40-year-old singer told the First Lady at a luncheon. "They rebel in the street. They will take pot, and they will get high. They don't want to go to school because they're going to be snatched off from their mothers to be shot in Vietnam."

Mrs. Johnson was pale and her voice trembled slightly as she replied to Miss Kitt.

"Because there is a war on—and I pray that there will be a just and honest peace—that still doesn't give us a free ticket not to try to work for better things, such as against crime in the streets, for better education and better health for our people," Mrs. Johnson said.

The dramatic confrontation took place at the luncheon Mrs. Johnson gave for 50 women to discuss "What Citizens Can Do to Insure Safe Streets."

Earlier in the luncheon Miss Kitt had challenged President Johnson to answer a question about delinquent parents, intercepting his path from the room to ask it.

He was a surprise guest who dropped in after dessert and spoke briefly to the women. He called for greater support of police and said "there's a great deal we can do to see that our youth are not seduced, and the place to start is in the home."

As he turned to leave the private family dining room on the second floor, Miss Kitt, who was seated near the podium, rose and stood in front of him.

"Mr. President," she asked, "what do you do about delinquent parents? Those who have to work and are too busy to look after their children?"

The President paused a moment, startled, and then answered: "We have just passed a Social Security bill that gives millions of dollars for day-care centers."

"But what are we going to do," Miss Kitt interrupted.

"That's something for you women to discuss here," he replied impatiently and walked out.

Miss Kitt remained silent during the presentations of three "Women Doers" who have been directly involved in crime control and prevention program and who had been invited to address the luncheon group.

The speakers were Katherine Peden, of Hopkinsville, Ky., only woman member of the President's Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders; Mrs. Charles Coe, a volunteer VISTA worker in Atlanta, Ga.; and Margaret Moore, of Indianapolis, Ind., who helped organize more than 50,000 women in that city in a drive against crime.

The First Lady asked the other women guests to express their views on the subject. Several spoke. Then Miss Kitt raised her hand and Mrs. Johnson nodded to her. Miss Kitt puffed on a cigarette and her eyes flashed.

"I think we have missed the main point at this luncheon," she began. "We have forgotten the main reason we have juvenile delinquency."

"The young people are angry and parents are angry because they are being so highly taxed and there's a war going on, and Americans don't know why," she declared.

"Boys I know across the Nation feel it doesn't pay to be a good guy. They figure that with a (crime) record they don't have to go off to Vietnam."

There was surprise on the guests' faces when Miss Kitt, the mother of a six-year-old daughter by a former marriage to a California real estate man, pointed a finger to Mrs. Johnson and said:

"You are a mother, too, although you have had daughters and not sons. I am a mother and I know the feeling

of having a baby come out of my gut. I have a baby and then you sent him off to war. No wonder the kids rebel and take pot, and Mrs. Johnson, in case you don't understand the lingo, that's marijuana."

The successful 40-year-old South Carolina-born Negro singer told Mrs. Johnson she had lived in poverty as a child and knew what underprivileged persons are going through. (Miss Kitt has also worked with ghetto youths in Wash-

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The Washington Post

Times Herald

The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star (Washington)

The Sunday Star (Washington)

Daily News (New York)

Sunday News (New York)

New York Post

The New York Times

The Sun (Baltimore)

The Worker

The New Leader

The Wall Street Journal

The National Observer

People's World

Date JAN 19 1968

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ington, Watts and elsewhere.)

Mrs. Johnson replied quietly but obviously under great stress.

"I cannot identify as much as I should," she said. "I have not lived the background you have nor can I speak as passionately and well. But we must keep our eyes and our hearts and our energies fixed on constructive areas and try to do something that will make this a happier, healthier, better-educated land."

Before Mrs. Johnson replied, Mrs. Richard Hughes, wife of the Governor of New Jersey and the mother of eight sons, broke the silence that fell heavy on the audience when

Miss Kitt finished talking.

"I feel morally obligated. May I speak in defense of war?" Mrs. Hughes began.

Her first husband, she said, was killed in World War II and one of her eight sons is now in the Air Force. "None wants to go to Vietnam but all will go . . . they and their friends," she said.

"I think anybody who takes pot because there is a war on is a kook," she continued. "These young people are still juniors, they have to be regulated. I hope we adults are still in control."

Dr. Bennetta Washington, wife of Washington Mayor Walter Washington, a guest at the luncheon, spoke also in reply to Miss Kitt.

"I understand that Miss Kitt said she knew about anger. I also know a little about it. But we are here to release these energies in constructive rather than destructive channels."

At a meeting later with "Rebels With a Cause"—a group of Washington youths she has worked with—Miss Kitt said she is not the least bit sorry that she spoke her mind and got Mrs. Johnson "flustered" at the luncheon.

"I should put on my claws because I am the cat woman of America," she quipped. "If Mrs. Johnson was embarrassed," that's her problem." Remarks Spontaneous.

She explained that her comments to the President and

First Lady were spontaneous and that she had gone to the luncheon with no preconceived idea of criticizing the handling of the war or anti-juvenile delinquency programs.

"It was a lot of things the women were saying" that touched her off, she added. "I felt . . . a lot of them got off the track, particularly Mrs. Johnson. Mr. Johnson, the President, was somewhat off the beam."

"The fact that Mrs. Johnson wants to put flowers in the street, or trees on the side of the road is not going to prevent juvenile delinquency. Naturally it will create a feeling that things are better than they are. It is kind of like a dream world."

Guest list on Page 52.

EARTHA KITT:

"You are a mother, too, although you have had daughters and not sons. I am a mother and I know the feeling of having a baby come out of my gut. I have a baby and then you send him off to war. No wonder the kids rebel and take pot, and Mrs. Johnson, in case you don't understand the lingo, that's marijuana."



MRS. JOHNSON:

"I cannot identify as much as I should. I have not lived the background you have nor can I speak as passionately and well. But we must keep our eyes and our hearts and our energies fixed on constructive areas and try to do something that will make this a happier, better educated land."





By Wally McNamee—The Washington Post
Mrs. Johnson talks with singer Eartha Kitt before a confrontation at a White House luncheon over the Vietnam war.

POINT OF VIEW

Kitt Blast Pales GOP Efforts

By MARY McGRORY
Star Staff Writer

The Republican governors, who were only trying to compete with their brothers on Capitol Hill in responding to the State of the Union message, were hopelessly upstaged by singer Bartha Kitt, who made her case inside the White House.

The governors had planned with care, choosing their most early-morning face, John Chafee of Rhode Island, to preside over the telephoned reaction of six fellow-governors, to Johnson's speech. But their amplified murmurings about redwoods and taxes were drowned out by the Negro star's shout-in in Lyndon Johnson's own dining room.

The governors were speaking with the inhibitions of public office-holders. Miss Kitt, the free artist and the fiery militant, went off like a rocket in Mrs. Johnson's face.

Today's youth rebel, Miss Kitt said, because they are snatched off "to be shot" in Vietnam.

At Top of Her Voice

Miss Kitt said at the top of her voice what some politicians in this city only whisper. The President had carefully made no connection between what he called "the restless questioning" mood of the nation and disunity over the war.

Only Gov. Dan Evans of Washington saw the same cause and effect as Miss Kitt.

The other governors questioned various aspects of the war on crime, which was the most fervently applauded passage in the President's speech.

Evans said, in phrases that were pastel in comparison with Miss Kitt's: "The endless war in Southeast Asia tends to affect or infect some of the people in this nation. . . . The emphasis ought to be in resolving the problems that lead to the ferment, rather than in controlling the effect."

Miss Kitt put it searingly. Today's youth, she said, feels there is "no reason to be a good guy." He would rather go

to jail "as a bad guy" and avoid the draft.

The President, who had come in to smile on the distaff deliberations in the dining room, sensed at once that his wife was entertaining a lioness unleashed at the luncheon table. Miss Kitt challenged him on "adult delinquency," and he fled. The effect of her subsequent explosion on Mrs. Johnson was, according to on-lookers, devastating.

Miss Kitt's manners will be severely criticized. Her courage will doubtless be warmly commended by those who agree with her, and have noticed that polite dissent gets nowhere.

Her credentials are beyond avail. As she told the appalled lady-lunchers, "I have slept in the gutter" — a claim that none of them could make. She is a child of tenant farmers who lived in Harlem. She has identified with Negro causes and worked in Watts and other slums.

"I have to speak what is in my heart," she said, thereby setting herself off from those public men who Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, another rebel looking for a hearing, says "do not speak as their minds and consciences dictate."

Little Sanctity

The President has now discovered the flimsiness of the sanctity of his home. Life is getting harder for him, in spite of the protection that surrounds him. The sanctuary of the church can no longer be counted on. It was violated for him when the pastor of Bruton Parish church in Williamsburg lectured him about the war.

As for the Republican governors, their carefully stage-managed reply was lost in the uproar over the unscheduled outburst from the visiting star whose admirers proudly call her "the bad kitten."

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The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date **JAN 19 1968**

62-112009-A-
NOT RECORDED
135 JAN 24 1968

20 JAN 26 1968

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : J. A. Sizoo

SUBJECT: EARTHA KITT

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan

DATE: January 19, 1968

1 - Mr. J. A. Sizoo

1 - Mr. D. J. Brennan

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United Press International (UPI) reported 1/18/68 that Negro singer Eartha Kitt shouted angrily at Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson 1/18/68 at a White House luncheon commenting that the Nation's youths are rebelling because they are "snatched off to be shot in Vietnam." Miss Kitt's outbursts visibly shocked Mrs. Johnson and other guests according to the UPI. When Kitt concluded her statement, Mrs. Johnson said: "Because there is a war on--and I pray that there will be a just and honest peace--that still doesn't give us a free ticket not to try to work for better things such as against crime in the streets, better education and better health for our people." Mrs. Johnson, according to UPI, was visibly shaken by Kitt's unexpected statement.

Secret Service has requested a name check on Kitt and on "Rebels with a Cause," an organization mentioned by Kitt at the luncheon.

An individual named Eartha Kitt residing at 261 West 143rd Street, New York City, was listed as an affiant in support of a passport application in 1950 of [redacted] a guitarist and ballad singer who had performed at meetings and rallies supported by the Communist Party and communist front organizations and who has sponsored various Communist Party front groups.

Movie actor Charlton Heston, in August, 1963, furnished a list of movie personalities who planned to participate in the March on Washington on August 28, 1963. Eartha Kitt was among those listed.

ENCLOSURE

TDR:bjr
(7)

Enc.

REC-52

3 FEB 12 1968

29 FEB 14 1968

Memorandum J. A. Sizoo to W. C. Sullivan
RE: EARTHA KITT

In June of 1966 Eartha Kitt reportedly expressed an interest in joining the march in Mississippi protesting the shooting of James Meredith.

In October, 1966, information was received from a reliable source that [redacted] was suing her husband, [redacted] for divorce as a result of [redacted] catching her husband in bed with Eartha Kitt.

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"Rebels with a Cause" is made up of a group of teen-agers from Southeast Washington whose members number in the hundreds. The group obtained funds in 1966 from the United Planning Organization and administrative help from the Southeast Neighborhood House. "The Washington Post" on May 8, 1966, said that the Rebels were so dedicated to democratic discussions that a meeting of four Rebels seemed to border anarchy. [redacted] a full-time staff member of the Rebels, was described as "a high school dropout who spent her time running the streets with a gang of children, the kind of kids who start riots."

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On August 16, 1966, Detective [redacted] [redacted] Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., advised the "Rebels with a Cause" is a branch of the Southeast Neighborhood House. [redacted] said there is no information that a disturbance that took place in Washington on August 15, 1966, was organized by the Rebels; however, [redacted] was among those arrested.

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Memorandum J. A. Sizoo to W. C. Sullivan
RE: EARTHA KITT

Stokely Carmichael of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee put Kitt on American Airlines flight 77 to San Francisco, California, from Dulles Airport at 9 a.m. today.

ACTION:

1. Secret Service is being furnished the information in our files regarding Kitt.

yes 2. Pertinent information regarding Kitt being furnished to the White House today by letter.

PR

W.C.S.

3. By letter dated 6/28/67 (copy attached) we responded to a name check request on Eartha Kitt by Mrs. Stegall at the White House. It is noted this letter does not include all the data on Kitt mentioned in this memorandum. Crime Records Division is determining whether other data was available at the time and, if so, why it was not included. Separate memorandum being submitted. (SBD:amr 1/19/68)

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J

I want this promptly.

Two views of that 'Eartha Kitt Affair'

'Sour notes' and 'mawkish indignation'

The incident

By DAMON RUNYON JR.

Singer Eartha Kitt was out of her depth at the White House.

She was off-key, hit more sour notes than you could wave a baton at, and her phrasing was irrelevant, incompetent and immaterial.

Miss Kitt was one of 50 women invited for a discussion on "what citizens can do to insure safe streets."

Evidently the meeting was in the rumpus room.

President Johnson made the mistake of sticking his head into this bee hive—and promptly got stung with a question from Miss Kitt:

"What do you think about delinquent parents. . . parents who can't spend time with their children?"

Johnson carefully suggested to Miss Kitt: "I think it would be a good idea if you would ask the women and then tell me what you think."

That, of course, was what they were there for. Miss Kitt waited until a question-and-answer period, then fly at Mrs. Johnson:

"You send the best of this country off to be shot and maimed. . ."

This no doubt came as a surprise to the President, Congress and the Cabinet who thought they had sent the troops.

Miss Kitt also surprised American youth by describing them as rebels in the streets who would get potted if they were called to arms.

"They don't want to go to school" she continued, "because they're going to be snatched off from their mothers to be shot in Vietnam."

Not if the Armed Forces can help it. The last thing they want is a bunch of potheads with acute Freudian hang-ups. Miss Kitt went on:

"The main reason for juvenile delinquency today," said Miss Kitt, "is because their parents are angry, and their parents are angry because they're so highly taxed and because there's a war going on they do not understand."

"The children of America are not rebelling for no reason at all. They are not hippies for no reason at all. They are rebelling against something. We all seem to camouflage something."

However, a sniffing snout of Georgetown hippies insisted that they do not use camouflage. Residents wished they would use something.

"No pay taxes and we are very resentful of those high taxes," Miss Kitt added.

True! But what all this had to do with footpads, heisters and headbreakers in the streets was not made clear by the songstress.

Taxpayers pointed out history does not record a single example of a happy taxpayer. They said this resentfully. Some explained they were very resentful of those high taxes.

Miss Kitt's White House performance received mixed notices from critics.

Some said Miss Kitt was rude to the President and Mrs. Johnson, and Miss Kitt was not the spokesman for the group, and her remarks had nothing to do with the issue at hand, and what could Lady Bird do except nag Lyndon, and you know how stubborn that makes husbands.

Others said that this is a free country, and there was free speech and free this and free that and all that constitutional free stuff, so quit knocking Miss Kitt. However, the score was against those who said how free everything is in the US. It cost 10 cents to get into the White House.

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People's World _____

Date JAN 26-28, 1968

EXAMINER (WASH) 6

REC-35

EX 106

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~~The coverage~~

By THOMAS SHALES ^{Wash.} ^{B.C.}

Best Performance of the Week Award goes hands-down to a fine singer, Eartha Kitt, who made Washington shudder last week by simply speaking her mind.

It would seem that the White House would be a logical place to exercise a little 'freedom of speech,' but Miss Kitt's frank comments made less sturdy souls gasp, giddy gal reporters shriek and the First Lady of the Nation weep.

Now for the Worst Performance of the Week Award—who gets that? Well, not Mrs. Johnson, even though she was awfully self-righteous about the whole thing, and not even that intemperate Rev. George Davis, who was quoted as having called Miss Kitt, in effect, "ill-mannered, stupid and ignorant." No, the competition is tough, but laurels go instead to the American Press, which responded with the most mawkish indignation possible and refused to treat the story with any kind of dignity or professionalism.

The basic problem in such a case—and let's hope the public is aware of this—is that any women's reporter assigned to the White

House was obligated to slant the story in favor of Mrs. Johnson or else risk a very cold and lonely professional life. The story was invariably reported by women who have successfully pried their way into Establishment social life here and who wouldn't breathe a discouraging word about the President and his family no matter what. It's an unfortunate arrangement.

But some of the bias exhibited was unusual. Isabelle Shelton, in the Evening Star, was practically hysterical. Mrs. Johnson was "visibly shocked" by the "long tirade," Miss Shelton wrote, and the poor dear "responded with obvious emotion." In the lead of the story, Izzy claimed that Miss Kitt "rocked" the luncheon by "staging an angry confrontation," implying that it had all been planned ahead of time.

All the words she used to describe Eartha's actions were slanted: Miss Kitt didn't just ask, she "demanded loudly." Miss Kitt had not "questioned" Mrs. Johnson, she had launched an "assault" on her (was any blood let?). And when Miss Kitt was discussing youthful rebellion, Miss Shelton says Miss Kitt did so "in almost a snarl."

Helen Thomas, who wrote the UPI story that day, outdid almost everybody in her lurid account—which was tinged, not incidentally, with blotches of bigotry; Miss Thomas seemed to feel the great insult was that a cruel Miss Kitt had callously confronted a sweet, lovely little lady, Mrs. Johnson. Eartha Kitt was described as someone "born

in poverty, 39 years ago" who had then dared to make "a fortune" in "the movies and Broadway shows" (Miss Kitt has made few movies). When Mrs. Richard Hughes spoke in opposition to Miss Kitt, Eartha "stared at her with her arms folded," according to the Thomas piece, thereby trying to create the illusion that Miss Kitt was merely childish.

Everyone referred to it as an "outburst," suggesting that Miss Kitt had flown into a rage at random, when actually her comments were made during an announced "question and answer" session at the White House. The fact that her candor made Mrs. Johnson turn "pale" (that's Helen Thomas's word) is not so disturbing—a First Lady who's busy planting petunias while a war is raging might, indeed, be accused of impractical innocence and very well could shed tears at Miss Kitt's pointed remarks.

But the American Press, which is a big boy now and supposedly aware of the world's realities, ought to be able to report such occurrences with some degree of impartial credibility.

Maybe they shouldn't be sending women to do a man's job.



UPI photo

BEFORE THE FALL—Lady Bird Johnson chats with Eartha Kitt at a White House luncheon shortly before that now famous confrontation.

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UPI-102

(EARTHA KITT)

WASHINGTON--SINGER EARTHA KITT WAS SOUNDING OUT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ON GOING TO VIETNAM TO ENTERTAIN U.S. KERVICEMEN JUST BEFORE SHE SOUNDED OFF AT THE WHITE HOUSE. IT WAS LEARNED TODAY.

REP. ROMAN PUCINSKI, D-ILL., AND LT. COL. ROLAND C. BEASLEY, CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES PROFESSIONAL ENTERTAINMENT OFFICE, SAID MISS KITT HAD APPROACHED BOTH OF THEM ON THE DAY SHE DISRUPTED A LUNCH BY MRS. JOHNSON WITH AN OUTBURST AGAINST THE WAR.

BEASLEY SAID HE PLANS NO FURTHER ACTION ON ANY PROSPECTIVE VIETNAM VISIT BY THE NEGRO SINGER UNLESS SHE PRESSES THE MATTER.

MISS KITT, IN A SUDDEN OUTBURST THAT VISIBLY SHOCKED MRS. JOHNSON AT A MEETING OF 50 WOMEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON JAN. 18, SHOUTED THAT YOUNG PEOPLE IN AMERICA WERE REBELLING BECAUSE THEY FACED THE PROSPECT OF BEING SENT TO VIETNAM TO BE SHOT AT.

THE WOMEN WERE CALLED BY THE FIRST LADY TO A CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS REMEDIES TO CURB CRIMES ON AMERICAN STREETS.

REP. ROMAN PUCINSKI, D-ILL., WHO HAD WORKED CLOSELY WITH MISS KITT WHEN SHE TESTIFIED BEFORE HIS HOUSE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY LAST YEAR, SAID THE SINGER CALLED HIM ON JAN. 18 WHEN SHE ARRIVED HERE FOR THE CONFERENCE.

PUCINSKI SAID MISS KITT SAID SHE WANTED TO GO TO VIETNAM TO ENTERTAIN THE TROOPS AND ASKED HOW SHE SHOULD MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS. PUCINSKI'S OFFICE CONTACTED BEASLEY.

BEASLEY SAID HE CALLED MISS KITT AND SHE REPEATED THE REQUEST AND SAID SHE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO GO IN APRIL. HE SAID HE MADE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET HER AT HER HOTEL HERE TO FURTHER DISCUSS THE REQUEST BUT THAT HE LEFT AFTER SHE DID NOT APPEAR FOR THE MEETING AN HOUR AND A HALF BEYOND THE SCHEDULED TIME. THIS WAS AT THE SAME TIME MISS KITT WAS STILL AT THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING.

"WE NEVER SOLICIT ENTERTAINERS FOR THIS TYPE OF THING," SAID BEASLEY. "IT'S ALL VOLUNTARY ON THEIR PART. I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER SINCE THEN AND ACCORDING TO OUR PROCEDURES WE WON'T DO ANYTHING FURTHER UNTIL WE HEAR FROM HER AGAIN."

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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CARL F. ROWAN *AR*

Rating Eartha Kitt's White House Performance

The public has been bugging me with unsolicited telephone calls about Eartha Kitt's performance (pardon the expression) at the White House.

My resolve to ignore the resulting nonsense that has filled the press and the airwaves has melted away. Herewith, then, are my replies to the telephoned complaints that really got to me:

1. "What Eartha Kitt did at the White House was crude and ill-mannered. It was shameful."

It is a boring waste of time to discuss Miss Kitt's manners. The thing that matters is whether she was right or wrong in blaming delinquency and crime on the war in Vietnam.

As far as I'm concerned, Miss Kitt's real "crime" was her breach of logic. This country had a serious problem of delinquency and lawlessness before most Americans ever heard of Vietnam; it will have a serious problem long after the Vietnam war has ended.

The upsurge of crime in the streets is a reflection of a complex maze of economic, racial and social injustices—added to a pretty broad human inclination to try to get something for nothing. Neither a truce in Vietnam nor armored cars for every police force in the country will produce a quick or easy solution to the crime problem.

2. "But wasn't it rude and in bad taste for Eartha Kitt to do that to Mrs. Johnson when

she was a guest in Mrs. Johnson's home?"

Miss Kitt was invited to the White House along with other public figures—and the press—to discuss a public issue. Under these circumstances the White House was Miss Kitt's house, and my house and your house. She was not Mrs. Johnson's "guest" in the normal sense.

When Mrs. Johnson called the meeting and asked her guests to speak, she obviously was willing to accept whatever political benefits accrued to her husband. One assumes, therefore, that she was willing to accept whatever liabilities went with a public exploration of a very controversial issue.

3. "Well, I agree with the Johnsons' pastor, the Rev. George R. Davis, who apologized for the behavior of ill-mannered, stupid and arrogant people, including Negroes. I'd have expected you to apologize for Eartha Kitt."

I'd rather apologize for the Johnsons' pastor. Wasn't it a trifle arrogant of him to presume the right to "apologize" for other Americans—especially when that young minister in Williamsburg, Va., just got his head chewed off for injecting politics into the pulpit?

4. "You should be ashamed. After all that Mr. Johnson has done for the Negro, it's a Negro who goes to his own house and tries to embarrass him!"

Do I have to be ashamed of the behavior of every Negro? Could I enjoy the variety of being ashamed of; say, the poet, Robert Lowell, for refusing to accept a White House invitation? Let's desegregate this business of being ashamed!

None of us would be wasting our time on this silly business if the White House would remember, and you would realize, that there are Negroes and then there are Negroes.

Eartha Kitt was at the White House not because she was reputed to know anything about delinquency or how to fight crime. Like a lot of the

White House luncheon guests, she was there as a "celebrity."

I can name 500 Negro women who could give Mrs. Johnson an articulate, moving, knowledgeable, wise, compassionate statement on how to combat crime. But they never sold a million copies of *West Si Bon* or anything else. So they weren't invited to the White House.

But Miss Kitt was. And, thanks to the furore she created, she may sell a million copies of whatever it is she next records.

Like, perhaps, "In the Steal of the Night?"

The Washington Post

Times Herald

The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star (Washington) *AR*

The Sunday Star (Washington)

Daily News (New York)

Sunday News (New York)

New York Post

The New York Times

The Sun (Baltimore)

The Worker

The New Leader

The Wall Street Journal

The National Observer

People's World

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167 JAN 31 1968

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 Holmes ☒
 Gandy ☒

Vietnam Tour for Eartha?

B-2 By Aldo Beckman
 Chicago Tribune Press Service

Singer Eartha Kitt was negotiating with the Pentagon to send her on an entertainment tour of Vietnam several hours before her verbal outburst against Mrs. Lyndon Johnson last week, it was revealed yesterday.

Miss Kitt talked on the telephone that morning with Lt. Col. R. C. Beasley of the Armed Forces Professional Entertainment Office and asked him to meet her at 3 p.m. that day in her hotel.

Shortly after Miss Kitt talked with the Pentagon official she went to the White House luncheon, where she shouted at Mrs. Johnson that one of the main reasons for juvenile

delinquency was America's participation in Vietnam.

During their conversation, Miss Kitt suggested to Beasley that two weeks in April would be the best time for the Vietnam visit. In offering her services for the tour she complained that she did not think enough Negro entertainers had been visiting American troops.

Beasley arrived at the Shoreham Hotel at the agreed time to meet Miss Kitt, unaware of the White House incident. After waiting nearly an hour for her, he left to keep other engagements.

Beasley said he has not heard from Miss Kitt.

The Washington Post ☒ B-2
 Times Herald ☒
 The Washington Daily News ☒
 The Evening Star (Washington) ☒
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 The National Observer ☒
 People's World ☒

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Letters to the Editor

Eartha Kitt at the White House

Eartha Kitt's manners may be in question, but this is not a polite society, for never before in the history of wars have the war dead and wounded been brought into our living rooms every day.

Why not spend an extra billion or two on complete coverage of every action of the war and run it 24 hours a day? That way we women could at least see our sons, husbands and lovers when they die or are maimed.

FLORENCE A. BODKIN.
 Alexandria.

Mrs. Washington's reply to Miss Kitt, as reported in your Jan. 19 issue, fails to consider the energies of our boys in Vietnam. The young men, as well as "Women Doers," might better "release these energies" in constructive rather than destructive channels.

The real spectacle of the White House luncheon was that a mother of eight sons, Mrs. Hughes, could "speak in defense of war." Such a mother is hardly in a position to label others as "kooks."

RUTH S. GAINER.
 Washington

Eartha Kitt's publicity caper at the White House social was an obvious example of poor judgment, bad taste, and, certainly, not truthful. When will the "speak out" set practice good will, courtesy and common sense?

Regarding the truth of her outbursts, I believe that the crime in our streets was rising

substantially long before the Vietnam conflict. This can be proved by reviewing the annual FBI reports on crime before the buildup in Southeast Asia. I believe that Montesquieu once said: "The less men think, the more they talk." Miss Kitt ought to take note of the eminent French philosopher.

ROBERT KOVALCHIK.
 Mt. Rainier, Md.

If the individuals who take the time to insult President and Mrs. Johnson spent their time perfecting their own work they would be better off. The very people who criticize, in my opinion, give the lowest professional performance. I hope to be spared having to witness sermons or performances by the mediocre people that see fit to embarrass but offer no help.

MILDRED ADKINS.
 Washington.

I salute Eartha Kitt from the bottom of my heart. I would not have believed that truth could be on the menu at a White House luncheon.

It certainly is "off the track" for ladies to prattle about constructive outlets for the energies of young people today — of young men, especially, whom the Government is cynically and deliberately allowing to grow up in order to make soldiers of them. It seems to me that the more violent forms of juvenile delinquency are excellent preparation for the role these young

men will be expected to play as soon as they reach draft age. Smoking pot, on the other hand, will never make anyone a better soldier.

When will parents realize that "a good soldier" is nothing to be proud of? A good soldier is not someone who is willing to go to war, it is someone who is willing to do efficiently the filthy work the Government wants done once he's over there.

Miss Kitt showed honesty and bravery that should teach something to young people, and that puts most older people to utter shame.

JEAN W. FLUHR.
 Washington.

Eartha Kitt is a rude person. She used a social function where she was invited as a guest to air her personal and unsolicited opinion, which does not help but rather further confuses a difficult issue.

As a mother of a teenage boy, I want to serve notice that Miss Kitt does not champion my cause. Mothers who raise sons do not expect them to pay back financially at a certain age. Raising children is not paying off some piece of merchandise on an installment plan. When my son's turn comes up to serve in Vietnam, I shall try my best to instill in him a sense of duty and honor to be serving his country. And I trust this effort will not drive him to taking pot.

MRS. KING WANG.
 Silver Spring.

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Date JAN 22 1968

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Pastors Air Views on Eartha Kitt Row

By Kenneth Dole
Washington Post Staff Writer

Eartha Kitt, the singer who startled a White House luncheon last week with extemporaneous remarks on race and poverty, was much in the foreground at Washington churches yesterday.

At President Johnson's church, National City Christian Church, nine young people rose just before the sermon and tried to distribute a defense of Miss Kitt. They identified themselves as staff members of the Liberation News Service, located across from the church at 3 Thomas cir. nw.

Ushers escorted them to the door before they got very far. Mr. Johnson was not present.

At Mount Bethel Baptist Church, 1st Street and Rhode Island Avenue nw., the Rev. Leamon W. White said he thought Miss Kitt was justified in expressing her opinion but not justified in suggesting to young men that they use marijuana to avoid the draft.

"What kind of a country would we have," he asked, "if when the country was in peril we should go looking for marijuana?"

Mr. White, a past president of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Washington, D.C., and vicinity, said he deplored the war but added, "If I had a chance and my country called me, I'd go."

Also backing Miss Kitt's expression of opinion was the Rev. Jefferson P. Reese, pas-

tor of the Church of the Redeemer (Presbyterian) and a leader in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He said:

"I think her remarks were entirely appropriate. I think they were authentic, unstudied, and represented the feeling of the majority of black people, and I think Lyndon Johnson ought to be happy to get such an expression of what people feel, because staged expressions are not valuable at all."

The Rev. Colbert Pearson of Berean Baptist Church, 2033 11th st. nw., said Miss Kitt seemed to feel that because this is a free country, she was free to do as she pleased.

"Without passing judgment on her statement as to its rightness or wrongness," he continued, "I should say we are not free to say what we want to say wherever we are and whenever we feel like it."

"We live in a world of give and take and we have to give sometimes and take some things when we don't feel like it."

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The National Observer _____
People's World **11 13 1968**

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55 JAN 31 1968

NOT RECORDED
167 JAN 26 1968



By Matthew Lewis—The Washington Post

FEARFUL FOR EDITOR—Ray Mungo, lower center with hand on chest, editor of Liberation News Service and leader of a group of nine young men and women who passed out anti-Vietnam War leaflets during a sermon by the Rev. Dr. George R. Davis yesterday, hears protests of the action. The incident took place at National City Christian Church, where President Johnson often attends. He was not there yesterday. The leaflets defended the actions of singer Ertha Kitt in an outburst against Mrs. Johnson at the White House last Thursday.

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KITT 1/21 NX
WITH CHURCH 201A

BOSTON (UPI)--SINGER EARTHA KITT SAID SUNDAY SHE HAD NO INTENTION OF CRITICIZING THE UNITED STATES IN REMARKS SHE MADE AT A WHITE HOUSE LUNCHEON LAST WEEK.

IT SEEMS THAT WHAT I SAID AT THE WHITE HOUSE WAS TAKEN AS A CRITICISM OF MY COUNTRY," THE SULTRY SINGER SAID. "THIS WAS NOT MY INTENTION," SHE SAID IN A TAPED TELEPHONE INTERVIEW BROADCAST SUNDAY BY A BOSTON RADIO STATION (WEEI--DICK PROVOST SHOW).

AS TO WHETHER HER FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT TO MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON AND GUESTS AS THE GATHERING WAS A BREACH OF ETIQUETTE, THE SINGER REPLIED:

"I DON'T KNOW WHY. I AM VERY SURPRISED. I RAISED MY HAND AND WAS CALLED ON TO EXPLAIN MY VIEWS. THAT'S WHAT I DID.

"I AM NOT A BLACK WOMAN SPEAKING FOR BLACK PEOPLE, BUT AN AMERICAN SPEAKING FOR ALL AMERICANS," MISS KITT SAID.

ASKED ABOUT HER VIEWS ON THE VIETNAM WAR, SHE SAID, "I HAVE NO ANSWER AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD BE THERE OR NOT. MY REASON FOR BEING AT THE WHITE HOUSE WAS TO GIVE MY VIEWS ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN AMERICA.

"MANY PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR. AS A MOTHER, I STOP AND THINK OF THE REASONS THAT WARS BEGIN. IF WE'RE NOT GIVING PROPER REASONS FOR WARS, THEN WE STAND THE CHANCE OF OUR CHILDREN BECOMING DELINQUENT," MISS KITT SAID.

SHE SAID SHE BELIEVED THAT HIGH TAXES WERE A CAUSE OF POVERTY AND DELINQUENCY.

"WE'RE ALL PAYING SUCH HIGH TAXES TODAY WE'RE NOT ABLE TO HIRE PEOPLE TO WORK. IF WE WERE ALLOWED TO KEEP MORE OF WHAT WE EARN, WE'D BE ABLE TO ALLEVIATE A LOT OF POVERTY.

"TEN OR 15 OR 20 YEARS AGO, THERE WERE MORE PEOPLE ABLE TO HIRE MORE PEOPLE TO WORK FOR THEM. IF PEOPLE WERE ALLOWED TO HAVE TWO, THREE OR FOUR HELPERS IN THE HOUSE, IT WOULD ALLEVIATE A LOT OF UNEMPLOYMENT," MISS KITT SAID.

LS73 5PES

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167 JAN 26 1968

55 JAN 31 1968

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Director, FBI Attn.: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION

2-18-76

SAC, Cleveland (80-382)

TELEVISION APPEARANCE
NEWS - TV - CHANNEL 5
DOROTHY FULDHEIM - REPORTER
CLEVELAND, OHIO - 2/18/76

At the time today when I cut a television tape on the FBI for captioned reporter, entertainer EARTHA KITT was also present in the studio for the purpose of cutting a tape.

Miss KITT observed while I cut a tape pertaining to the FBI, its work, jurisdiction, etc., and stated that as a result of her fracas at the White House when former President Lyndon B. Johnson was the occupant, she was being investigated by CIA. She stated this investigation, which she believes was ordered by former President Johnson, has caused her to be "blackballed" by booking persons in this country, thereby causing her to be unable to obtain entertainment bookings in the United States. This was the gist of her interview on television.

At the conclusion of my tape cutting, she spoke to me concerning the FBI and her problems, and asked if I thought it appropriate for her to write the Attorney General, President, or others, concerning her problem.

I informed her she should feel free to write anyone she desired.

The above is being submitted for information in the event a letter is prepared by Miss KITT, and in the event she uses my name in connection with it.

3-Bureau
1-Cleveland
CRM:DG
(4)

NOT RECORDED
140 FEB 26 1976

57 MAR 2, 1976

ORIGINAL FILED IN 94-11

1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 -
1 -

b6
b7C

January 19, 1968

EARTHA KITT

A review of files of this Bureau discloses the following pertinent information:

In the February 12, 1960, edition of "El Mundo," a San Juan, Puerto Rico, newspaper, in an article captioned "Eartha Kitt Against Statehood," Kitt is quoted as being opposed to Puerto Rico having statehood, stating "Puerto Rico should keep its African and Spanish culture without mixing it with the rest of the world, even if this is done to benefit the United States."

In June of 1966 Eartha Kitt reportedly expressed an interest in joining the march in Mississippi protesting the shooting of James Meredith.

An individual named Eartha Kitt, residing at 261 West 143rd Street, New York City, was listed as an affiant in support of a passport application in 1950 of a guitarist and ballad singer who had performed at meetings and rallies supported by the Communist Party and communist front organizations and who has sponsored various Communist Party front groups.

b6
b7C

Movie actor Charlton Heston, in August, 1963, furnished a list of movie personalities who planned to participate in the March on Washington on August 28, 1963. Eartha Kitt was among those listed.

At a White House luncheon on January 18, 1968, Kitt allegedly mentioned an organization, "Rebels With a Cause." Our files disclose that "Rebels With a Cause" is made up of a group of teen-agers from Southeast Washington

TDR:bff
(7)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

62-112009-1

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____